

Glossary

AGE ADJUSTMENT

Age adjustment, using the direct method, is the application of age-specific rates in a population of interest to a standardized age distribution in order to eliminate differences in observed rates that result from age differences in population composition. This adjustment is usually done when comparing two or more populations at one point in time or one population at two or more points in time.

BLACK

A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.

CAUSE OF DEATH

All those diseases, morbid conditions or injuries, which either resulted in or contributed to death and the circumstances of the accident or violence, which produced death.

DEATH RATE

Number of deaths during a specified period divided by the number of persons at risk of dying during the same specific period x 1,000.

HISPANIC

A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

INCIDENCE RATE

A measure of the frequency with which an event, such as a new case of illness, occurs in a population over a period of time. The denominator is the population at risk; the numerator is the number of new cases occurring during a given time period.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

The infant mortality rate is the number of deaths of children less than one year of age divided by the number of live births in the same year x 1,000.

LIVE BIRTH

A live birth is the complete expulsion or extraction from a pregnant woman, which, after such expulsion or extraction, shows any evidence of life.

MORBIDITY

Any departure, subjective or objective, from a state of physiological or psychological well-being.

MORTALITY

A measure of the frequency of occurrence of death in a defined population during a specified interval of time.

POPULATION

The total number of inhabitants of a given area or country. In sampling, the population may refer to the units from which the sample is drawn, not necessarily the total population of people.

PREVALENCE

The number or proportion of cases or events or conditions in a given population.

PREVALENCE RATE

The proportion of persons in a population who have a particular disease or attribute at a specified point in time or over a specified period of time.

RATE

An expression of the frequency with which an event occurs in a defined population.

RISK

The probability that an event will occur, e.g. that an individual will become ill or die within a stated period of time or age.

SURVEILLANCE

The systematic collection, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of health data on an ongoing basis, to gain knowledge of the pattern of disease occurrence and potential in a community, in order to control and prevent disease in the community.

TREND

A long-term movement or change in frequency, usually upwards or downwards.

UNDERLYING CAUSE OF DEATH

The underlying cause of death is (a) the disease or injury which initiated the train of events leading directly to death, or (b) the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury.

WHITE

A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East.